(b) if so, whether all the States are implementing these instructions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to make them to accede to the instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued to the State Governments in 1965 that apart from the grant of business loans to repatriates from Burma, priority may also be given to them in the matter of grant of licences, permits, etc. where these are required for any occupation or trade.

(b) No instance of non-implementation of these instructions has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

High Breed Cows and Buffaloes

1541. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to absence of high breed bulls and buffaloes in Uttar Pradesh especially in the hilly areas, the breeds of high yield milk cows and buffaloes are not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a special programme for the high breed cows and buffaloes in the Uttranchal areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The State Government has 12 bull mother farms for production of cattle and buffalo bulls and crossbred bulls, including one bull mother farm at Dehradun which produces Sindhi and Jersey Red Sindhi crossbred bulls for breeding and producing high yielding animals.

(b) and (c) The State Government has taken up distribution of milch cows and buffaloes under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Mini Dairy and the Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas programmes. In addition to the efforts of the State Government for cattle and buffalo development, Government of India has provided Central grant for improvement of cattle and buffaloes during the current Plan period under the National Bull Production Programme and Extension of Frozen Semen Technology Scheme.

[English]

Tissue Culture

1542. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the propagation of tissue culture in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the arrangements made to teach the techniques of tissue culture to the common farmer in the country; and

(d) the names of the food, fruits and vegetable crops most likely to be benefited by the adoption of tissue culture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 70 commercial micro-propagation units have been registered for the production of tissue culture plants for both export and domestic markets. Out of these 30 units are already in production, producing about 40 million plants in fruits, plantation crops, ornamental crops, forestry plants, etc. annually, against an installed annual capacity of 110 million plants.

(c) Tissue culture being a specialised hi-tech area, entrepreneurship development in this area is being done by Department of Biotechnology particularly through their proposed programme of establishment of Micropropagation Technology Parks.

(d) Tissue culture technology had already been commercialised in crops like Potato, Sugarcane, Banana, Strawberry, Citrus, Papaya, Sweet Potato, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, etc.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

1543. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial assistance and facilities are being provided to the family members of freedom fighters pension holders after their death;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria/procedure laid down for determining the eligibility of their dependents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, widows, unmarried/unemployed daughters, mothers and fathers of the deceased freedom fighter pensioners are treated as eligible family members/ dependents for the purpose of family pension and other facilities provided by the Central Government. In genuine and deserving cases, dependents of freedom fighters who are not eligible for grant of pension are also considered for grant of financial assistance from Home Minister's Discretionary Grant.